



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Update

For Immediate Release – August 13, 2012

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New Fire Detected in Sequoia National Park

Fire managers detected a new lightning caused fire on Sunday August 12, 2012 in Sequoia National Park. The Mehrten Fire is burning at about 9,400 feet in elevation on the west slope of Alta Peak between Mehrten Meadow and Tharps Rock. The fire is just north and upslope of the Alta trail. At this time no portion of the Alta Trail is closed, but closures are possible if depending on fire behavior and growth.

The Mehrten fire is being suppressed by the parks helicopter crew. The decision to suppress this fire was based on the high level of fire activity currently occurring across the state and subsequent need to maximize resources available to respond to other fires. The fire is currently burning in the single tree which was struck by lightning as well as the sparse grass fuels immediately surrounding the tree. The estimated size of the fire is 0.1 acre.

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